

REMARKS

A Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement is submitted herewith. Because this is submitted after a first action, the fee is also transmitted herewith.

In the Office Action of August 27, 2007, Applicant's election of claims 1-9, 11-21 and 23-27 was acknowledged and an action on the merits was rendered as to these claims. Claims 10 and 22 have been withdrawn subject to Applicant's right to file a divisional application or obtain additional species before termination of proceedings in this Application.

Claims 4, 8 and 9 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

It was said that Claim 4 recited the limitation "second bulk coin storage receptacles" in line 2 and that there was insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

Upon reviewing the claim, it appears that the word "second" was superfluous and it has been deleted. The term "bulk coin storage receptacles" does find antecedent basis in claim 1, from which claim 4 depends.

It was said that there was insufficient antecedent basis in Claims 8 and 9 for the limitation "skimmer mechanisms." Upon reviewing these claims the term skimmer mechanisms is properly introduced in claim 9, if claim 9 is made to depend from claim 1, which has been accomplished by the amendment. Claim 8 now depends from claim 9, which provides antecedent basis for the skimmer mechanisms.

Claim 17 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly

point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

It was said that the term "denomination sensors" is unclear because the specification refers to various sensors in relation to "denominations". What the Examiner says is true, however, both the specification and claims make clear which set of sensors is being discussed, as both sets count coins by denomination. For example, claim 17, lines 2-3, recites: "wherein the controller is responsive to denomination sensors associated with the dispensing hoppers" (emphasis supplied.) Thus, it is clear in the claim which set of denomination sensors is being referred to.

Claim 18 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. The limitation "user" in line 6 was cited. It was said that there was insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

In response, claim 18 has been amended to recite:

"dispensing coins by denomination from a plurality of dispensing hoppers and totaling amounts dispensed in relation to respective users;

"loading batches of coins having a plurality of denominations into a machine and totaling amounts of the batches of coins in relation to respective users;

. . .; and

"comparing amounts of coins dispensed from the machine for a respective user with amounts of coins loaded into the machine by said respective user."

Thus, the tracking of amounts by user in the machine, which is a feature of the present recycling machine and method, should now be more understandable.

Claims 1-9, 12-21 and 23-27 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Jones et al (US 6,318,537 B1) in view of Harris (US 5,067,928).

Claim 11 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Jones et al (US 6,318,537 B1) in view of Harris (US 5,067,928) and further in view of Petri (US 5830054).

In response to these rejections claim 1 has been amended to emphasize differences not found in any of these references.

Jones et al. shows an ATM embodiment in Figs. 1 and 2 and a casino cash handling machine in Figs. 13a, 22a and Figs. 20 and 21.

In the ATM embodiment, Jones et al. remits to a coin tray of a type known in the art. In the casino cash handling embodiment, the coins are sorted into large bins and not returned directly to a user. The Office action recognizes that Jones et al. has only a first set receptacles 402a-402f in Fig. 20 for both receiving and dispensing the sorted denominations. But, the Office action goes on to assume that the teaching of Harris of an elevator type coin storage device could be incorporated into Jones.

The following are the reasons that there is no suggestion to combine Jones and Harris as assumed in the Office action.

1. It is noted that Harris shows what appears to be a vending machine and shows only "one" elevator device for the machines. Thus, there is no concept of sorting coins into multiple elevator devices in Harris or dispensing into a multiple compartment receptacle.

2. There is no need for the elevator devices in Jones because the casino cash handling machine is a back room machine of very large size, so the coin receptacles can be

made quite large. Also, this machine is operated by a trained technician or operator, and does not serve a plurality of customers for the cash.

3. Harris only dispenses the coins into a coin tray 62 similar to coin tray 22 in the ATM embodiment in Jones. Neither Jones or Harris is looking to fill a cash drawer.

4. While Petri is cited for showing the cash drawer in Fig. 3, in Petri the single tier of coin receptacles are not elevator-type receptacles and must be flipped by hand to dispense coins to the cash drawer.

Claim 1 has been amended to recite "the controller also being electrically connected to the dispensing hoppers for automatically dispensing coins without manual manipulation of the bulk storage coin receptacles."

In none of these machines is "a coin recycling machine for receiving coins, for sorting coins into a plurality of denominations and for automatically dispensing coins as a plurality of sorted denominations to an individual receptacle having compartments for receiving and holding respective denominations," as recited in amended claim 1.

Even in combination, the accumulated art does not suggest a machine for both automatically accepting and dispensing sorted coinage to a user while reconciling deposits and withdrawals for that user. It is not assumed in these machines that the persons withdrawing sums are the same persons depositing the cash.

Claim 18 has therefore been amended to recite:

"dispensing coins by denomination from a plurality of dispensing hoppers and totaling amounts dispensed in relation to respective users;

"loading batches of coins having a plurality of denominations into a machine and totaling amounts of the batches of coins in relation to respective users;"

Thus, the Office action is focused on finding mechanical components of the present claimed invention in the prior art, but there is no suggestion of the combination to combine all of the parts necessary to provide a convenient cash recycling machine for bank and retail employees managing cash drawers. This motivation or goal is missing in the references.

Neither Jones ATM machine nor casino cash sorting machine provide this function. Harris' vending machine example does not provide this function. Petri's coin sorter/dispenser does not provide an automatic machine or a machine with the two tiers of receptacles for receiving and dispensing coinage respectively.

In addition, none of the prior discusses simultaneous operation as claimed in dependent claims 6, 19 and 27, with claim 6 reciting as follows:

"wherein said controller is able to total the coins being loaded into the machine in an input operation as well as counting of coins being dispensed in an output operation during a time interval in which the input operation is also being conducted."

It was said in the Office action that "regarding Claims 6, 19 and 27, Jones states that both coin input valuation and coin output valuation can be performed at the same time. See Jones at col. 19, lines 7-25.

Jones, col. 19, lines 17-25 states as follows:

The coin distribution network 400 eliminates the aforementioned downtime associated with unloading coins from network 400 illustrated in FIG. 20. The downtime is eliminated because the intermediate coin bins 402 are able to receive coins while dispensing coins to the convey paths 410, 412. The counters 404 only count those coins which are dispensed to the convey paths 410, 412. Accordingly, new coins directed into the intermediate coins bins 402 will not affect the batch

values for the coins being dispensed to the convey paths 410, 412. For example, while coins are being transported to an operator via the operator path 412, the counters 404 are separately counting the coins dispensed to an operator convey path 410 and a user convey path 412. Appropriate value totals are maintained for the coins transported to the operator. Additionally, the coin is able to dispense coins back to a user via the user convey path 410 while coins are also being transported to an operator via operator convey path 412.

Jones is relying on two sets of coin counters, one set on the sorter and one set located below the storage receptacles to accomplish counting of an output batch while a new batch is being received. But this is in a "one tier of receptacles" system, where the coins being received and dispensed are all in one tier of receptacles, so the input batch is not separated from the output batch into the BCS receptacles as in the present invention. The Jones method is not considered a good way of operating as it is difficult to control receptacle filling when coins are simultaneously entering and exiting the same hopper or receptacle at the same time. Jones also assumes a very large machine where the coins in the sorter may not have reached the receptacles when the second set of counters is counting the coins being dispensed from the hoppers.

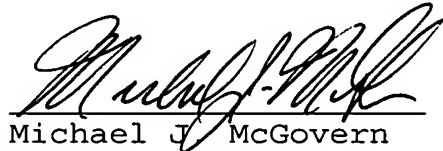
CONCLUSION

No fee is believed to be due, but if any fee is deemed to be due, please charge Quarles & Brady Deposit Account 17-0055.

In view of the Amendment and Remarks, reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested. After the amendment, claims 1-9, 12-21 and 23-27 are still pending, and a Notice of Allowance for these claims is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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